

## COMMENTS ON WELWYN HATFIELD GREEN BELT REVIEW

### Sites P55 and P56

I urge that these sites be retained in the Green Belt.

#### Reasons:

1. This slim section of Green Belt separates the town of Hatfield from the village of Welham Green, and prevents their coalescence. (It also contributes to stopping the merging of the towns of Hatfield and Potters Bar)
2. This section of the Green Belt contributes strongly to the safeguarding of the countryside.
3. This section of Green Belt contains numerous PROWs, which are used by many local people, in order to enjoy exercise in the open countryside close to where they live.
4. This section of Green Belt contains Wildlife Sites, especially Southway Road Verge and Grasslands North of Parsonage Road.  
There is a great deal of wildlife here: especially birds, including skylarks; protected bats; and great-crested newts, which are a protected species.
5. There is also woodland here. This includes the specially planted area of woodland which adjoins the former New Barnfield Library area, and an area of Ancient Woodland.
6. The area is part of the Watling Chase Community Forest and this should stay in the Green Belt.
7. Much of this area of Green Belt is on elevated land, and from the ridge of the Green Belt area there are attractive views over the fields of this piece of Green Belt, and beyond across the valley.

56 b.

This part of the site 55 and 56 should definitely be kept in the Green Belt.

#### Reasons (additional to those above)

1. Only two small sections of parcel 56b are previously developed land within the Green Belt. These sections are the buildings of New Barnfield (the former Library Resources Centre, and before that Hatfield secondary school) and of the former Southfield School (for children with special needs). These developments are almost all single-storey buildings, so the openness of the Green Belt is not really compromised. The buildings are surrounded by green open space.

There could be redevelopment of the buildings of the abandoned former Library Resources Centre/Hatfield secondary school again without compromising the Green Belt too much, as the new buildings could be single storey. The former Southfield School is still a useable building.

#### 2. Bunchleys Village Green

i. This is shown on the map as part of site 56b, but is not mentioned in the report. This Village Green is protected land for use as a Village Green. There is no reason to remove it from the Green Belt.

ii. The whole of Site 56 should be kept in the Green Belt, as Bunchleys Village Green benefits as a place for enjoyment of nature by its setting amid a larger piece of Green Belt land.

iii. The Village Green is also a constraint on development occurring in parcels 55 & 56, and therefore is another reason for keeping this whole section of land in the Green Belt.

